

26 June 2018

Department of Communications and the Arts
By email: VASTreview@communications.com.au

SUBMISSION TO THE REVIEW BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS INTO VIEWER ACCESS SATELLITE TELEVISION (VAST)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the review by the Department into the VAST service.

Prime Media Group (Prime) and WIN Corporation provide the VAST service in the Western Australia TV3 licence area via a joint venture, WA Satco Pty Ltd (WA Satco).

Prime has contributed to the submissions to this review made by both RBAH and Free TV Australia, and concurs with the views expressed in both submissions.

Prime believes that the VAST is vital. VAST delivers free-to-air television services to regional and remote Australia and to other areas where terrestrial coverage is deficient. It provides free-to-air services of the commercial television broadcasters who hold regional and remote area television licences, and carries the full suite of the ABC and SBS services.

Government funding of VAST, together with the commercial free-to-air broadcaster funding of the Conditional Access Scheme (CAS), has ensured that viewers in remote and terrestrial black spot areas have free access to substantially the same free-to-air television services as metropolitan viewers. We support the comments made in the submissions by RBAH and FreeTV that Government funding of VAST should continue for a further 10 years from 2020.

Satellite technology remains the most practical and cost-effective method of delivering commercial television services to remote and regional Australia and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future.

Yours sincerely



Ian Audsley
Chief Executive Officer